

Tioga County Commissioners

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Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
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Senate Local Government Committee
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Please allow me to share how Tioga County has addressed changes and challenges that the oil and gas extraction has created over the past several years.

The single most important benefit was having the ability to invest in our community as a result of the drilling activity. Act 13 made possible upgrades in areas until now that were not financially possible, for example:

1. Additional cameras for the Prison, Courthouse and Department of Human Services
2. GPS units placed in the County owned vehicles as a safety measure for personnel while working in the field
3. Converted a county owned building into a new Emergency Services facility. Tioga County calls for both Tioga and Potter County, a land mass the size of the State of Delaware. Another good use of Act 13 funding providing service to rural communities with the latest technology

Volunteerism is a necessary part of most rural counties, especially our fire departments who depend on any number of grants or fundraisers to provide service. The Impact Fee, or Act 13 funds, were invested without hesitation when the Board of Commissioners were approached about a relatively new piece of apparatus. A Draft Eductor creates a much more rapid access to a pond or body of water to assist the fire department volunteers to set up and provide firefighting services. The departments contributed \$500.00 and the County, through Act 13, invested \$2,200 for each Eductor. A total of 13 departments took part.

Two scholarships, each in the amount of \$50,000, were offered in the form of a scholarship to local colleges. One has been established at Mansfield University for the education/training of First Responders. A grade equivalent has been set to obtain the funds. A similar scholarship is also in place at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, offered for Shale Net and Regional Emergency Medical Technician education/training. The County will also be supporting the Municipal Police Academy, Act 120, which will be reinstated at Mansfield University.

When funding from the State was held back due to budget constraints, compromising a bid, Borough council approached the County and we created a contract to use Act 13 funds to be replaced when the State paid the borough, saving the Borough money.

Leaders in the County preserved the Short Line Rail system running from Wellsboro, PA to Elmira, NY, that proved to be a tremendous investment. The rail now serves the oil and gas industry as a major and valuable need of transporting sand, water or other necessary materials for the oil and gas extraction.

The Board of Commissioners believes the Wellsboro/Johnston Airport is another potential portal of access both now and into the future. Act 13 funds were invested in the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) and the conversion of the airport to dispense jet fuel for emergency aircraft as well as military aircraft.

Tioga County will be constructing a new single point of entry to the Tioga County Courthouse, improving security for the court, employees and the public. In addition, HVAC systems that no longer meet code will be replaced. The preservation of the former jail for historical value and the construction of a document storage building are also being planned.

Thoughtful consideration of investment of Act 13 Impact fee is happening every day in Tioga County, focused on opportunities to overcome the challenges for the benefit of everyone.

All 67 counties benefit from the Impact Fee. Act 13 is a good thing. It is working. It needs to stay!

Total Act 13 Funds Received: \$13,471,327
(does not include Legacy Fund)

Total Act 13 Funds Spent to Date: \$8,572,726

Proposed Act 13 Project Expenses: \$2,800,000

Potential Act 13 Balance: \$2,098,601